

Funeral for a Dark Lord

Five millennia before the birth of Luke Skywalker, at the height of the Republic, daring hyperspace explorers plunge through uncharted space, hoping to discover valuable commercial routes. Young Gav and Jori Daragon, brother and sister, attempt to make their fortune. Their supply-runner parents killed in Empress Teta's final unification wars, Gav and Jori have little left of a meager inheritance.

When their ship Starbreaker 12 is damaged on a mapping run, Aarrba the Hutt offers his repair dock on Cinnagar, but he refuses to release the ship until Gav and Jori pay him. Though Aarrba is kind-hearted (for a Hutt), he has already trusted them one time too many. Adding to their misfortunes, the merchant lord Ssk Kahorr suffers financial ruin when he uses one of the brother and sister's mapped routes — and he takes out a contract for their lives . . .

Meanwhile, the Jedi scholar Odan-Urr is assigned to the Koros system to assist Empress Teta. The unification wars are over, and the seven worlds of her system are poised for prosperity. Odan-Urr becomes a close confident of another Jedi, Memit Nadill, a personal adviser to the Empress.

The two Jedi rescue Gav and Jori from Ssk Kahorr's assassination attempt. The brother and sister know they are doomed if they stay in Cinnagar. They have only one chance — to steal the Starbreaker 12 in one desperate plunge through hyperspace, hoping to discover a valuable new route no one else has dared to explore. Breaching Aarrba's defenses, they roar off in their ship, dodging Cinnagar security. Punching random numbers into their navicomputer, they vanish into the unknown . . .

































































































